



county of santa barbara

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

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RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

November 5, 2009

Catherine Reheis-Boyd, Chairwoman
Blue Ribbon Task Force
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Ste. 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Proposal 2 / Opposition - Naples Reef MPA

Dear Chairwoman Reheis-Boyd, Members BRTF:

The Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission is in unanimous support of South Coast Marine Protection Act Number Two. Additionally, and enthusiastically the Commission is one-hundred-percent opposed to the inclusion of any marine protected areas over Naples Reef in the BRTF preferred alternative.

Historically Naples Reef is a Santa Barbara County heritage fishing site critical to small boat recreational fishing, party boat operations, abalone mariculture, and commercial lobster trapping. Naples is a resource treasured by fishing clubs and those small boat anglers who have retired and entered the world of weekday fishing unable to make hazardous trips to our Channel Islands.

It is clear from S.A.T. guidance that with the establishment of marine reserves at Point Conception and Campus Point, the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act in the Santa Barbara County region have been fully met *without* the inclusion of Naples Reef.

The addition of a Marine Protected Area at Naples Reef will drive the negative socio-economic impacts of the MLPA network over the already perilous brink. It has been estimated that such an action would cause a thirty-percent loss to Santa Barbara coastal lobster trapping while possibly eliminating the last sportfishing operation in Santa Barbara, making the water intake pipe of the local abalone farming operation illegal, and creating a deep loss for the recreational anglers out of the Santa Barbara Harbor.

For scientific analysis of the efficiency of marine reserves in California, a stated objective, it is imperative that Naples Reef remain open to fishing and utilized as a comparative tool to the robust marine reserve of neighboring Campus Point. The Campus Point marine reserve contains a higher biomass than Naples with greater overall biodiversity and productivity and has

a far more rocky substrate that includes three "high spots" compared to the single "high spot (pinnacle)" of Naples.

Overall Campus Point and Naples have more similarities than any other two areas in such proximity to each other. Combined with the large amount of baseline data already collected from both areas, this one-in-one-out configuration creates a perfect opportunity to study spillover and general marine reserve effects.

And finally, the inclusion of Naples Reef in the MLPA network has no cross-interest support, is not critical or necessary to the success of the California Marine Reserve Network, and is a major "tipping point" for additional negative socio-economic impact to Santa Barbara County, this, a county that already has more marine reserves than anywhere else in the state.

The southern portion of Santa Barbara County offers few nearshore reefs. Combined with the distance and inaccessibility of the northern reaches of the county, Naples becomes a crucial and relatively safe destination.

In realistic terms it appears that to eliminate more opportunity and increase economic impact would seem unfair.

Thank you for your consideration and your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Warnekros', with a stylized, flowing script.

WILLIAM WARNEKROS, CHAIRMAN
Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission

Cc: California State Fish and Game Commission